

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/926,029**
Amendment dated February 6, 2004
Reply to OA of **August 12, 2003**

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 3, 8 and 9 are in the application wherein claims 1 to 3 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 8 and 9, on the other hand, stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Gilman or Kewin, it being the Examiner's position that both Gilman and Kewin disclose cores having material wound thereon and which include notches (10 of Gilman and 30,32 of Kewin) that do not extend to the outer peripheral surfaces of the core.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections of claims 8 and 9 in view of the amendments made to claims 8 and 9 hereof which clearly distinguish the claimed invention over the devices disclosed in the respective references. Specifically, the claims as hereby amended are directed to a paper roll, as particularly illustrated in Figure 8 of the drawings, wherein an elongated hollow wall 21 defines a tubular shaft member having concentrically spaced inside and outside surfaces, the latter being adapted to receive paper wound therearound. As claimed, the shaft member has at least one notch of limited length extending from an end thereof. The notch is defined by a recess 21A which is disposed in the inner surface of the wall of the shaft member. Moreover, the recess 21A as clearly shown in the drawing figure communicates with the end of the shaft member and extends to a radial depth that is short of the outside surface of the shaft member.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of the claims is not well taken, particularly as against the claims as amended, because neither of the applied references disclose a paper roll formed as a tubular shaft member wherein an outside surface of the wall is adapted to

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receive packaging paper and the inside surface of the wall contains at least one notch formed at the end of the tubular shaft member, each notch being defined by a recess of limited axial length formed in the inner wall surface in communication with the end of the shaft member and extending to a radial depth short of the outside wall surface.

Contrary to the claimed device, Kewin's roll contains two notch forms for a core end member 14, neither of which conforms to the notch structure in the claims as hereby proposed to be amended. Kewin's notches 26 and 28 extend completely through the tubular wall of the core end member, and the notches 30 and 32 extend into wall projections 18 and 20. Moreover, the notches 22 and 24 formed on the core 12 differ from the claimed structure in that they extend completely through the core wall.

Gilman, on the other hand, shows a core 8 for winding film, or the like, in which the notches 10 do not have a limited length from the end of the core but, instead, extend the full axial length thereof.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that neither of the references relied upon in the rejection discloses Applicant's invention as claimed. It is therefore requested that the Examiner enter this Amendment in the case and pass the application to issue. In the event that the Examiner is constrained to retain the rejection of claims 8 and 9 it is requested that the Examiner nonetheless enter the amendments to the claims herein in order to place the application in better condition for appeal.

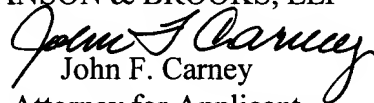
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On the other hand, however, if the Examiner finds that minor revision is still required to render the claims satisfactory, it is requested that he call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below in order to expedite the changes required to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect tot his paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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